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VIRGINIA
COMMISSION
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VISUALLY
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## ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

# Virginia Commission

FOR THE

## Visually Handicapped

FOR THE

Year Ending June 30, 1967





Commission Headquarters 3003 Parkwood Avenue Richmond, Virginia 23221

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page	
Members of the Commission	3
Services of the Va. Commission	4
Letter of Transmittal	5
Director's Report	7
Organizational Chart	11
Business Enterprises for the Blind	12
Vocational Rehabilitation	14
John B. Tabb Memorial Eye Clinic	17
Workshops	18
Low Vision Aids Clinic	22
Virginia State Library for the Blind	23
Talking Book Machine Service	24
Educational Services	25
Home Teaching	27
Recreation	29
Model Reporting Area	31
Aid to the Blind	32
Appropriation Receipts and Disbursements	43

#### MEMBERS OF THE COMMISSION

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A. FLEET DILLARD, Chairman, Tappahannock FIELDING L. WILLIAMS, Secretary, Richmond Mrs. A. Stuart Bolling, Jr., Portsmouth John B. Cunningham, D.D., Lynchburg F. B. Godbold, Jr., O.D., South Boston M. K. Humphries, Jr., M.D., Charlottesville James C. Wheat, Jr., Richmond

Services of The Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped are provided on a non-discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, creed or national origin. All applicants for services have a right to file complaints and to appeal according to regulations governing this principle.

#### COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED 3003 PARKWOOD AVENUE RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23221

November 8, 1967

The Honorable Mills E. Godwin, Jr. Governor of Virginia

DEAR GOVERNOR GODWIN:

It is a pleasure to transmit herewith the annual report covering our Commission's activities for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 1966, and ending June 30, 1967.

We believe that this report reflects continued progress toward our goal of providing the best possible services for the visually handicapped citizens of Virginia.

We wish to acknowledge and express our appreciation for the support which you and your staff have provided this agency in making these accomplishments possible.

Yours sincerely,

A. FLEET DILLARD, Chairman

#### COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED 3003 PARKWOOD AVENUE RICHMOND, VIRGINIA 23221

A. FLEET DILLARD, Chairman
VIRGINIA COMMISSION FOR THE VISUALLY HANDICAPPED

DEAR MR. DILLARD:

The services provided by this agency to Virginia's blind and other visually handicapped residents during the past year are briefly reviewed in this forty-fourth annual report of the Virginia Commission for the Visually Handicapped. Fortunately, additional resources have made it possible to continue in our efforts toward rendering needed services more promptly and effectively in spite of an ever increasing number to be served.

Major accomplishments for the year are enumerated in the individual departmental reports which follow; however, several significant highlights reflected in these reports include:

Employment opportunities for vending stand operators through Business Enterprises for the Blind program were expanded at an accelerated pace. A snack bar facility was installed for the first time in a State office building and arrangements have been made for additional concessions as construction on new State buildings in the Richmond area is completed. Similar operations were also opened on three military bases.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department successfully rehabilitated 283 individuals, thus setting another record in this important endeavor. The average expenditure per case was among the lowest in the nation; nevertheless Virginia ranked eleventh nationally in the number of cases rehabilitated. Although some visually handicapped individuals who do not fall within the legal definition of blindness were served for the first time through this program, more intensive case services were also given to the severely disabled blind persons. Fortunately, job placement opportunities for qualified blind persons are continuing to improve and the outlook for the future is good.

Another program which provides special employment opportunity is the workshop. Wage earners in both our workshop facilities were kept busy throughout the year producing a variety of items for State and Federal agencies; commercial accounts; Lions Clubs; other service organizations; and individual customers. The volume of subcontracted items showed an increase. This continued demand enabled the placement of additional multihandicapped blind workers in these programs. With plans for a new workshop building to be located in Richmond nearing completion, we look forward to a facility which will result in the improvement and expansion of work opportunities in this vocational area.

The Commission operated eye clinics continue to be a valuable resource for many individuals who would otherwise be denied this service. Through the John B. Tabb Memorial Eye Clinic, school children as well as adults who could not afford the services of a private eye specialist received free examinations. Needed medicine and glasses were prescribed for these patients. The Low Vision Aids Clinic is available without charge to anyone referred by a professional eye specialist. Special optical aids available through this service continue to help many individuals who have only a small amount of residual vision to function with greater ease in routine tasks requiring sight.

The demand for recorded materials from the Virginia State Library for the Blind was greatly accelerated. Partially responsible for this was the establishment of eligibility by Federal statute for physically handicapped persons to receive this service. It was possible to add long needed professional staff to the Library during the year. A full time assistant librarian was employed and a technician for duplicating and processing tape recorded materials was added.

The Talking Book Machine Service, of necessity, had to keep pace with the added number of readers. At the same time a program of exchanging older model machines for the new three-speed talking books was completed. An ample supply was in stock throughout the year thus reducing the necessity for long waiting periods by new applicants.

The Education Services Department experienced a substantial turnover of personnel; however, by the end of the year, we

were well on the way toward having a well-trained competent staff. The prospect for having all positions filled looks good as the coming year begins. It is anticipated that with the inauguration of teacher education programs specializing in work with the blind and visually handicapped at two state universities, trained personnel for this work will be more readily available in the foreseeable future. The needs of children enrolled in public, private, and parochial schools are being more adequately met as this department continues to expand and improve its services in cooperation with the local school systems.

The Home Teaching Department has taken on greater significance with the development of a more intensive program designed to assist vocational rehabilitation clients. The additional staff has helped to facilitate this new effort. Work with preschool children and older adults still continues to account for the major portion of the home teachers' caseload.

As all professional members of the various departments work with their respective clients, attention is given to the total needs of an individual. This includes Recreation which serves a very worthwhile purpose in any person's life. Although it is not always possible to directly assist each person in attaining a specific recreational goal, many are informed of and urged to take advantage of opportunities available through community resource programs.

The register of legally blind persons in the State has provided much valuable statistical information as a part of the Model Reporting Area system. File cards which can be handled through a data processing system now readily yields facts about the types of eye diseases and incidence of blindness in Virginia. A major objective remains the development and expansion of referral sources in order that this register will remain up to date and as nearly complete as possible.

It is gratifying to report that the number of persons receiving Aid to the Blind money payments showed a slight decline. As would be expected, a large portion of the total agency caseload is served through this program, since the incidence of blindness is largely concentrated among the older age group of our population. Social service and rehabilitation programs are con-

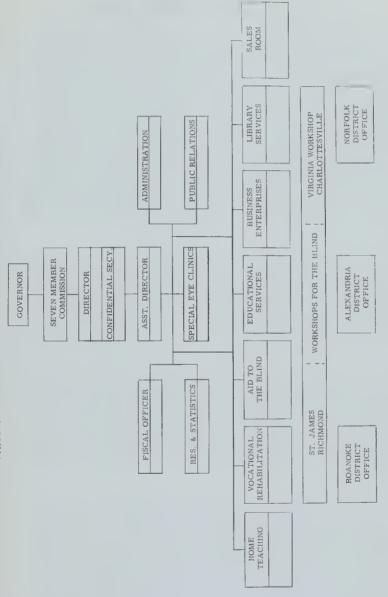
tinuing to supplement the needs of these individuals. This means that they receive much more from the Commission than the monthly public assistance check.

Those served by this agency are fortunate to have a dedicated and hard working staff of employees. They join me in expressing appreciation to a countless number of individuals and organizations who have assisted in many ways with implementation of a comprehensive service program. Though it is impractical to acknowledge all who should be recognized, we wish to mention only a few. Certainly the Governor and other State officials have fully supported our efforts. You and our other Commission members have given unselfishly of time and talents. We have enjoyed the full cooperation of many sister State agencies, as well as local and community agencies. The Lions Clubs throughout the State have actively supported our objectives rendering service in the local community and by supporting our workshop programs. A number of colleges and universities have assisted with our staff development efforts and in providing educational opportunities for visually handicapped clients. The School of Rehabilitation Counseling, Richmond Professional Institute, and the School of Education, University of Virginia, have both provided helpful resources for preparing professional workers to enter our field. Many individuals and groups have faithfully provided volunteer services. Here again, it is not possible to name all of them—The Telephone Pioneers of America, American Red Cross chapters, The Richmond Area Community Council, community recording groups, and volunteers who have assisted with recreation programs are only a few who have been of help to us. Without the additional resources and assistance provided by these supporters, the cost to the taxpayer would undoubtedly be much greater.

Prospects of improving services during the year which we are now beginning are encouraging. Additional staff and facilities are anticipated and with the cooperation of the 1968 General Assembly members, progress in services to the blind and other visually handicapped citizens will continue.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM T. COPPAGE. Director



## BUSINESS ENTERPRISES FOR THE BLIND

Commonly known and recognized as the Vending Stand Program, this activity was created by statute to provide and maintain employment opportunities for blind individuals who have the necessary business acumen for sucess as independent business managers in today's highly competitive society. This program is a vital and significant part in the Commission's total efforts in the rehabilitation of the blind. It not only provides a good source of employment for blind people but, more important, it has a profound influence upon the public by creating a favorable and acceptable image of blindness. A competent operator efficiently serving customers from an attractive and well-designed vending stand is invaluable in establishing public confidence in the abilities and skills of blind people.

Growth has been continuous for the past ten years, and the old concept of a vending stand has changed a great deal. Lobby news stands are fast becoming a thing of the past as more food locations are required by management. Although these locations are in most cases more profitable to the operator they also require far more supervision.

The increasing competition in the area of in-plant food service requires a greater amount of equipment and substantial emphasis on the appearance and decor of the equipment and area of operation. These factors contribute to the initial cost of establishing the units and make necessary their more frequent remodeling and refurbishing. In order to secure new locations, the stands must offer a service equal to, or better than, that of competitors.

This same competition calls for top-notch management and services. This latter circumstance has brought about some problems in the selection, training, and development of managers capable of meeting the challenges brought on by this competition. Steps were taken to aid the business enterprise manager to meet his competition by the development of more intensive preparatory and in-service training and improved management service. Plans have been made for an operator-trainee stand.

There were 45 vending stands in operation at the beginning of the year and seven new stands were added making a total of 52 at the year's end. Gross sales were \$1,706,049.03 and the 58 operators received in earnings \$419,942.13 or an average of \$640.15 monthly. The vending stands are located in Federal, State, industrial and commercial buildings.

These record earnings were established even with the new State sales tax, and the slowing of the economy in some sections of the State. Prospects for the coming year are promising. Contracts for four new vending stands have been signed. Many Federal, State, County, and Municipal officials, labor, management, and interested citizens extended cooperation in making the vending stand program a success.

## VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

The program operated by this department provides services in the areas of counseling and guidance, physical restoration, adjustment, pre-vocational and vocational training, placement and post-placement follow-up. These services are geared to achieve placement in professional occupations, industry, business, self-employment as well as many other areas.

Eligibility requirements for services was amended this year to include individuals who, although not legally blind, had a severe functional visual problem. A person may now qualify if the eye condition, in addition to being a vocational handicap, requires surgery, treatment, is progressive, or if the functional vision is severely impaired.

To meet the growing demand for specialized services to blind and visually impaired persons, efforts have been made to expedite improved methods of serving individuals. In this connection, a new arrangement with the Commission's Home Teaching Department has enabled it to receive Federal funds to add staff for more Home Teaching services for Vocational Rehabilitation clients.

Amendments to the Vocational Rehabilitation Act made available the initiation of added rehabilitation services including audiological tests and extended evaluation, up to 18 months, for the multi-handicapped whose vocational potential could not be assessed within the normal diagnostic period. Comprehensive services consisting of diagnostic evaluation, physical restoration, training, training supplies, mobility instruction, maintenance, job placement, tools, equipment and initial stocks in connection with job placement, and other services necessary to rehabilitate individuals have been rendered in increasing numbers this year. In this fiscal year 1,487 case services were provided compared to 1,102 in fiscal 1966.

#### Case Services Fiscal Year 1967

Rehabilitation and Adjustment Centers	65
Workshops	1
Diagnostic Procedures	675
Surgery and Treatment	175
Prosthetic Appliances	132
Hospital and Convalescent Centers	
Training and Training Materials	115
Maintenance and Transportation	
Tools, Equipment, and Licenses	
Goods and Services	
Total 1	187
1041 1	. 40

283 persons were rehabilitated this year compared to 234 in fiscal year 1966. Of the 283 rehabilitants 44.3 per cent were in the age range of 45 to 64. In the previous year only 38 per cent were in this age group.

The percentage of females rehabilitated climbed about five per cent this year, which indicates that more services are being provided to blinded mothers, housewives, and the female working population. Of the 283 individuals rehabilitated 251 were not drawing public assistance at closure. The average payment of Aid to the Blind recipients is \$1006.00 per year. Multiplying this figure by 251 means a potential savings of approximately \$252,500.00 of public assistance funds. It is also important to note that these rehabilitated individuals are now contributing to, rather than living on, the public tax dollar. Of even more importance is the personal dignity gained and the misery eliminated in the lives of these individuals.

Latest statistics show that out of the 37 states having separate agencies for the blind, Virginia's program ranked eleventh in rehabilitations per 100,000 population. The expenditures per case rehabilitated, including administration costs, was only \$1,663.00. This was the third lowest average in the nation as compared with an average cost of \$2,928.00 per rehabilitation for all agencies for the blind in the United States.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department is looking forward to meeting mounting needs in the area of adjustment training. The Vocational Rehabilitation Administration of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare has made more funds available to the states. Hopefully, through the increased funding, an adjustment center for the blind can be established in Virginia to provide services that would return individuals to an optimum degree of personal, social, psychological and vocational independence.

A Research and Demonstration Project is now underway, seeking to demonstrate that blind persons can successfully operate magnetic tape duplicating equipment. This could open the door to placing blind persons in similar jobs in libraries, school systems and commercial duplicating industries.

A district office has been established in Norfolk thus enabling counselors to more effectively serve clients in the Tidewater area.

#### JOHN B. TABB MEMORIAL EYE CLINIC

The purpose of this clinic, located in the Commission's Richmond headquarters building, is to provide free eye examinations to medically indigent Virginians, thus insuring that any such resident may obtain an eye examination even though unable to pay for it.

Clinics are held on a scheduled basis with examinations by appointment only. Resident ophthalmologists from the Medical College of Virginia staff this facility and provide professional service including diagnosis of eye conditions, issuing prescriptions for glasses, and referrals to other suitable facilities for further treatment.

During the past year 56 clinics were held and 1,193 examinations given, 287 persons received prescriptions for glasses, and 61 were referred to the Medical College of Virginia or other specialized resources for further examination and treatment.

#### WORKSHOPS

The Commission's sheltered workshop program offers employment opportunities to blind individuals whose multiply handicapped condition prevents them from competing in private industry. Under the protected workshop environment they not only have the possibility of engaging in productive endeavor but are also paid for their efforts and thus are not wholly dependent upon public assistance.

The Virginia Workshop for the Blind is located in Charlottesville and provides steady, remunerative employment for approximately fifty visually handicapped persons.

The workshop produces articles of excellent quality, which are purchased by the Federal Government and by State agencies, but which also are available to the general public. Brooms and mattresses are the main products; however, chair reseating service is also provided.

Broom department production increased 18 per cent during the past year. This increase was due largely to expanded sales by the Lions Clubs throughout the State.

The mattress department also had a substantial increase in production, amounting to 17 per cent over the previous year. This was due primarily to larger orders from State and Federal Agencies.

The work evaluation program, in conjunction with the Rehabilitation Department, has been of service to 11 trainees during the year. With the increase in the work load it was possible to give 6 of these employment in the shop.

The dollar value of the workshop operations in the rehabilitation of multiply disabled blind persons is relatively easy to calculate. However, human values are only discernible in the improvements in the blind client's vocational potential and his subsequent success on the job.

A complete list of the items produced during this year follows:

BROOMS	CHAIRS	MATTRESSES
No. 6	Press cane 159	Double 419
No. 438472	Hand cane 247	Single 15712
No. 212744	Rattan Split 190	Cot 20224
C & O 9864	Rush 19	K. Koop 18
Hotel 3342	Fibercraft 57	Polyurethane 866
Mill 5328	Binding cane 22	Box Springs 2177
		Pillows 1025
Total Items: 114,738	Total Items: 694	Total Items: 40,441
Value \$126,522.02	Value \$5,583.46	Value \$558,508.74
GRAND TOTAL	TEMS MADE	155,873
TOTAL SALES		\$690,614.22

The Richmond Workshop offered regular employment to 28 persons, who received wages comparable to those paid by private industry for similar work.

A quality control system assured the standard and quality of each product equal to that produced in other areas manufacturing the same product. In addition, each government contract was completed and shipped 30 to 45 days before the specified delivery date.

Items manufactured under Federal and State contracts and for the annual Lions Club sales include muslin and percale pillow cases, dust mops, plastic door mats, and furniture polish cloths.

In the absence of a Diagnostic and Evaluation Center at this location the Workshop through integral comprehensive services attempts to meet the visually multi-handicapped person's needs. The Workshop implemented the transition from dependency to independence through social adjustment and vocational activity. Planned recreation was provided by the Community Junior League with participation by both staff and workers.

The planned new workshop building with additional machinery and equipment will allow greater diversification, increased productivity and permit sheltered employment opportunities for more clients. Hopefully, some of these will eventually gain skills which will result in job opportunities in competitive industry.

Pillowcases (Federal Government)	8,816
Pillowcases (State Government)	8,400
Pillowcases (Percale — Lions Clubs)	1,248
Plastic Door Mats	8,016
Furniture Polish Cloths	4,848
Nylon Dust Mops	6,972

The Sub-contract Division of the Richmond Workshop functions under the same philosophy as the Commission's other workshop programs. Products are manufactured or assembled under Federal and State Government Contracts; arrangement with private industry, and for the annual Lions Club Sales projects. The same quailty control system is exercised in this shop as in the others.

Surgical caps, and other textile items comprise the major number of items produced. Also, there has been a substantial increase in new sub-contract work for local industry and for the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind in Washington, D. C.

A Charlottesville manufacturer provided a sub-contract which has resulted in a continuous source of employment for several wage earners. This contract provided for the filling, sealing, packaging and packing of a scented detergent used in laundering woolens and lingerie. The workshop also entered into a contract agreement with the Columbia Lighthouse for the Blind for the manufacture of items for the Military Resale Program. A plastic zippered men's suit bag and women's dress bag were added to the line of manufacture during the year and were sold primarily through the Lions Clubs. These new work experiences for the employees gave them a great deal of confidence in themselves and in their abilities.

Surgical Caps, White, Adjustable 5,760
Surgical Caps, Green
Terry Towels
Dish Towels
Magnetic Potholders
Ironing Board Covers
Dampening Bags
Men's Suit Bags
Women's Dress Bags
Dust Cloths
Pot Pourri
Other small Contract work
<del></del>
TOTAL 138,186
GRAND TOTAL ITEMS MADE456,486
TOTAL SALES\$187,145.82

#### LOW VISION AIDS CLINIC

This program, located in the Commission's Richmond headquarters building, serves persons from all sections of Virginia who because of their visual impairment are unable to read or easily function in their daily activities. Many of these patients are legally blind but some have useful residual vision. Others are served who are functionally visually handicapped although they may not fall within the legal definition of blindness.

The specially trained ophthalmological staff from the Medical College of Virginia provides a professional service to the patients examined. Reports on the findings and recommendations resulting from the Low Vision Aids examination are submitted to the referring source for follow-up.

This year the Low Vision Aids staff conducted a clinic at the State school for the blind at Hampton, and examined 32 visually handicapped students. This was the first time that the clinic staff had gone outside the city and the results were encouraging. Approximately 15 of the students examined received prescriptions for reading aids and nine were referred for additional examination at the Medical College of Virginia Eye Clinic. Four of these follow up examinations resulted in eye surgery.

During the year 53 Low Vision Aids clinics were conducted and 171 examinations were given. Those who obtained significant improvement in reading vision were given prescriptions for special hand magnifiers, or spectacle lens. In addition, a number were referred back to their ophthalmologists or hospital eye clinics for treament or further examination. Many school children were enabled to read regular print as a result of Low Vision Aids service.

#### VIRGINIA STATE LIBRARY FOR THE BLIND

The Library circulates Talking Books, records on discs and on magnetic tape, to visually handicapped persons who are unable to read ordinary print.

This year, as in past years, there has been a large increase in the number of Talking Books mailed to clients. Circulation increased in the fiscal year by more than 11,000 containers. The number of readers increased by 157.

Passage by Congress of Public Law 89-511 amended the Library Services and Construction Act. This Act provided for enlarging the recorded book service to other physically handicapped persons unable to read or handle conventional printed material.

An Assistant Librarian was added to the staff who will have the responsibility for the reference collection and who will handle circulation of Talking Books to juvenile readers. A tape technician was employed to handle the growing circulation of books recorded on magnetic tape. This circulation has increased by over 800 reels in the past year. With a staff member devoting full time to tape, it is anticipated that this service should increase greatly in the coming year.

	Talking	Books	Magneti	c Tapes
	Number of Readers	Containers Circulated	Number of Readers	Reels Circulated
Virginia	1976	75,262	108	2117
Maryland	963	42,032	111	2417
TOTAL	2939	117,294	219	4534

Physically Handicapped

471 Containers circulated

#### TALKING BOOK MACHINE SERVICE

Providing Talking Book record players to interested and eligible residents of Virginia, this department acts as an agent of the United States Government.

The Talking Book machines are available upon request and provided free of charge. During the year this service added 444 new readers of whom 352 were legally blind. They include elementary, high school and college students using the machine for specialized text book study as well as for leisure time reading. Adults of all ages also use the machines to read recorded magazines and books primarily for pleasure.

The Federal Government has expanded the Talking Book program to include persons who are not legally blind but who cannot handle conventional books. In the first year of this new program, 92 persons previously not eligible for this service were able to qualify for the first time.

A working agreement was established with the Alexander Graham Bell Chapter, Telephone Pioneers of America, to repair and maintain Talking Book machines in the Northern Virginia area under the same arrangement that the Old Dominion Chapter has been repairing and maintaining the machines throughout the rest of Virginia since 1960. With this resource, rapid repair and maintenance service can be provided readers in Northern Virginia. These two chapters devoted approximately 334 hours of volunteer work in the repair and maintenance program during the year. They serviced and repaired 312 record players and have converted 317 machines from two-speed to three-speed operation, including 33 1/3, 16 2/3 and 8 1/3 r.p.m.

#### EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

The Commission, through its Educational Services Department, provides supervisory and technical assistance to local school divisions in programming services to visually limited and legally blind children in public, private and parochial schools. The department maintains an education file on each school age child as long as services are indicated, through the completion of high school.

Visual limitations handicap many school age children to the extent that usual methods of study and learning are difficult if not impossible without assistance. Children served in this program may range from those having slight visual impairment, if in the opinion of an eye specialist special assistance is needed, to those falling within the legal definition of blindness. The latter group includes the totally blind who must use Braille for reading and writing.

In a school system where there are six or more visually handicapped children, the local school board may, with the Commission's approval, employ a teacher trained in working with such children. Five school systems in the State utilized the services of such a teacher with the Commission contributing up to one-half of the teachers salary. Depending on the needs within the locality, the teacher may function as a resource room teacher, an itinerant teacher, or as a combination of both. One hundred sixty-nine children received their education through these programs in the 1966-67 school year.

Schools that do not have a special teacher placed the visually handicapped child in the regular classroom. Under these circumstances, the department provided consultative service to the teachers. Four hundred-thirty children were served by this type of program. Twenty-eight of these children attended private or parochial schools, and 14 received homebound instruction due to multiple handicapping conditions including defective vision.

During the school year 843 children were provided educational assistance. The average case load was 593 children. Of this

number, 268 were certified as legally blind and 325 classified as partially sighted. Visual acuity could not be determined for four children who received services.

The State Department of Education, through Federal quota funds for the legally blind in the public schools, provides available materials and texts which can be procured from the American Printing House for the Blind. The Commission provides the materials needed for those not considered to be legally blind, and for the legally blind in private and parochial schools, as well as text materials and special appliances available from sources other than the American Printing House for the Blind.

Of the average caseload of children, 322 were large print readers, 138 both large and regular size print, 116 regular print, and 23 required braille. Of the 268 children certified as legally blind, 179 utilized the Talking Book Service. One hundred-fourteen children received Low Vision Aids Clinic examinations and psychological testing was provided for 180 children. The department referred 108 children for vocational rehabilitation services.

The department provided assistance throughout the State in setting up vision screening programs with emphasis placed on early identification of children with visual handicaps.

Information is exchanged with both schools for the deaf and the blind to provide the best educational services for those entering these residential schools or those returning to public schools.

#### HOME TEACHING

The Commission's professionally trained home teachers, located in major population areas throughout the State, provide a diversified program of vital services to eligible adults and preschool children. They work toward assisting the blind person to function capably and independently, and to help him better accept the loss of vision. They also assist many in developing activities of daily living skills.

In serving pre-school blind children and their parents, the teachers provide counseling services to assist the parents in adjusting to the problems associated with caring for a blind child. Home teachers teach them how to broaden the child's overall life experience and learning opportunities during the pre-school years. Parents are assisted in selecting toys which would be of greatest benefit to the child. Also, assistance is provided in the placement of children in neighborhood nursery schools and kindergartens.

Pre-school services frequently lead to the development of co-operative efforts between the home teacher and other agency personnel in the community. Psychological testing services are made available and in the later pre-school years, direct instruction is given for the purpose of better preparing them for entry into school. As a result of these co-operative efforts, more blind children have been accepted into nursery school and kindergarten programs and greater understanding of their ability to participate in educational programs with their peers is developing.

The large number of multi-disabled blind children of school age continues to be a problem throughout the State primarily because they are not readily accepted in existing educational programs.

Personal adjustment counseling and instruction in communication skills (braille, typing, script writing, etc.); activities of daily living (dialing the telephone, identifying money, personal grooming, personal hygiene, housekeeping and home management, etc.); recreational handicrafts; orientation to the home and its immediate vicinity; and operation of the Talking Book machine and better utilization of library services have been offered

by home teachers to greater numbers of blind adults everywhere in Virginia.

These valuable services make it easier for individuals to adjust to their loss of sight with the result that they are less dependent on other members of the family. Frequently, community agencies are called upon to support and augment these services. This results in newly blinded persons learning new ways of performing many skills and activities which make it possible to participate more fully in family affairs, community programs such as church groups, civic clubs, senior citizen programs, social and service groups.

During the past year the service program of the Home Teaching Department was extended. Arrangements were made for these teachers to provide special counselling and instructional services for selected clients of the Vocational Rehabilitation program. Often it is possible to assist individuals to learn skills in their homes which will make it possible for them to receive further training leading to job placement.

The use of trained volunteers recruited by the Red Cross chapters in Richmond and Northern Virginia continues to be of significant help to many persons served by the department. These enthusiastic and reliable volunteers provide sight for some blind persons where sight is not otherwise available thus enabling them to broaden their scope of activities.

In the course of rendering the services described in this report 9,178 visits were made to blind persons during the past year.

#### RECREATION

Effective and enjoyable use of leisure time is as important for the visually handicapped as it is for other members of our society. It is often more difficult for visually handicapped persons to find proper outlet and opportunity for use of leisure time. The varied services of the Commission are frequently called upon the assist those who need such help in coping with this problem.

The Talking Book Machine is a popular, constructive and enjoyable means of enabling almost 2,000 blind persons in Virginia to devote some of their leisure time to reading.

Many of the recreational services available to Virginia residents are included in the services rendered by the Commission staff. Those interested are not only taught how to use the specially adapted games and equipment (such as Braille playing cards), but are also assisted in procuring them. They may pursue these recreational activities either with other blind persons or with sighted friends, neighbors and family members. Handicraft instruction is also provided. This enables many persons, who enjoy this type of activity, to produce useful articles and to derive pleasure and satisfaction, and occasionally, some supplemental income.

Blind persons are encouraged to participate in community activities such as church groups, senior citizen programs, service clubs, social and fraternal groups. Through contacts with teachers, parents, church and community leaders, the Commission is frequently able to bring about a better understanding of blindness in the community. Understanding the unique recreational problem of many blind individuals creates opportunities which might otherwise not be available.

In several parts of the State, staff members have organized group programs which offer recreational handicraft instruction, special activities, guest speakers, field trips and social functions. A program in horseback riding has proven very popular.

Bowling programs continue to flourish. During the year two new leagues were organized. This brings to nine the number of such programs in the State which offers competitive sport and physical activity. The Southeastern Area Association Tournament attracted approximately 125 participants and was the largest regional tournament ever held in Virginia. The National Blind Bowling Tournament was held in Louisville, Kentucky. Approximately 60 Virginia bowlers journeyed there to compete with the 800 from all over the United States and parts of Canada.

In addition to the recreation activities, which the Commission sponsors, it refers many interested persons to special activities sponsored by others. Among these is a summer program conducted by the Virginia Association of Workers for the Blind.

#### MODEL REPORTING AREA

The Model Reporting Area is a voluntary association of States that maintain registers of blind persons and have joined in an effort to collect uniform information for the purpose of providing comparable and meaningful statistics on blindness. Information is for the benefit of the individual States and to the Nation as a whole. The association was sponsored by the National Institute of Neurological Diseases and Blindness (NINDB), with the counsel and cooperation of national organizations such as the American Foundation for the Blind and the Public Health Service, Division of Chronic Diseases.

Basic objectives are to make better statistics available on blind persons and to stimulate research in the field of blindness.

As of December 31, 1966, there were 5,731 legally blind persons on the MRA register. At the beginning of the year 5,306 persons were on the register. During the year 642 persons were added, and 217 persons were removed due to death, emigration from the State, or recovered vision.

The 5,731 persons on the register represent a prevalence rate of 1.28 legally blind persons per 1,000 population. Reliable estimates indicate the true prevalence rate to be 2.59 persons per 1,000 population.

Beginning June 1, 1967, a program was initiated to up-date this agency's register. Of the 5,731 persons on the register, 2,425 are to be contacted by letter that includes a prepaid addressed postal card to be returned to the Commission. The remaining 3,306 persons are in an active status with one or more departments of the Commission and do not need to be contacted.

#### AID TO THE BLIND

Aid to the Blind is the means by which financial assistance and other services are provided to the needy blind in Virginia. The Commission's Aid to the Blind staff is responsible for the supervision of the program which is administered by local departments of Public Welfare.

Emphasis during the year was placed upon providing and improving services to the recipients of Aid to the Blind. The local caseworker carries primary responsibility for providing services to applicants and recipients of the program. These services include help in securing medical care at home, arranging for institutional care if needed, help with personal and family problems, and motivation toward self-support.

Effort was made to simplify forms and procedures in the determination of eligibility, and in clarification of instructions in the Manual of Rules and Regulations. This simplification should enable the caseworker more time in which to provide services to clients and result in improvement in the quality of the program generally.

The year started with 1,157 cases and ended with 1,156. During the year 146 cases were added and 147 were closed. Of these, 86 were closed because of death of the recipient; 29 because of material changes in income or resources. Other reasons accounted for the remaining 32 cases closed; such as, loss of residence, restoration of vision, admission to institutions, and transfer to another assistance program. The average payment increased by \$12.24 during the fiscal year as shown by a comparison of the average payment in July, 1966, of \$71.60 and \$83.84 for June, 1967. The increase in payments was due to several factors. Among the causes were increased per diem hospital rates. an increase in the allowances for total standard individual requirements, an increase in the maximum amount allowed for shelter, and increases in the rates for care in nursing homes. The increases in nursing home rates became necessary in February as it was determined at that time that homes were upgrading their facilities to the extent that sufficient beds were becoming unavailable at the old rate.

The total amount expended for assistance during the year was \$1,062,983.99, of which \$906,274.86 was direct money payments to recipients, \$120,461.44 in vendor payments for nursing home care and \$36,247.69 for hospitalization of the needy blind. Sources of funds for total expenditures were seventy-one per cent from Federal funds, eighteen per cent from State appropriations and eleven per cent for local matching funds.

Recoveries totaling \$4,910.82 were received from the estates of ten former recipients for distribution to the Federal, State, and Local Governments in the amounts of \$3,565.83, \$840.62, \$504.37 respectively.

A presentation of the number of persons receiving aid in each local unit and the cost to the several governments follows:

## CASES RECEIVING AID TO

During the Fiscal Year-July 1,

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Accomack	14	14	14	16	16	16	16	16
Accomack	12	12	12	11	10	10	9	9
Albemarle	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Alleghany	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Amelia	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Amherst	Ð	υ	J	U	Ü			
Appomattox	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Arlington	7	7	7	8	8	8	8	8
Augusta	4	4	4	3	3	2	2	1
Bath	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	2
Bedford	5	6	7	7	8	8	8	8
Bland	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	3
Botetourt	9	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Brunswick	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Buchanan	12	12	12	11	11	12	12	12
Buckingham	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
	_		0	0	6	6	6	6
Campbell	5	5	6 5	6 5	5	5	5	5
Caroline	5	5		_	_		4	4
Carroll	5	5	5	5	5	4		
Charles City	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Charlotte	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Chesterfield	12	12	12	12	11	11	11	11
Clarke	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Craig	_	_	_	_	_	_	—	_
Culpeper	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Cumberland	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Dickenson	10	10	9	9	9	10	10	10
Dinwiddie	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Essex	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Fairfax	8	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
Fauquier	12	12	12	12	11	10	10	11

## THE BLIND AND EXPENDITURES

1966 Through June 30, 1967

Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Local	State	Federal	Total
16	16	16	16	\$1,269.36	\$2,115.58	\$8,192.06	\$11,577.00
10	10	10	10	921.66	1,536.02	6,047.47	8,505.18
1	1	1	1	37.52	62.45	244.03	344.00
1	1	1	1	95.36	158.96	621.68	876.00
5	4	4	4	633.18	1,055.31	4,139.51	5,828.00
5	4	4	4	432.75	721.24	2,822.01	3,976.00
7	6	7	9	1,012.59	1,687.61	6,547.85	9,248.05
2	2	2	1	286.41	477.34	1,913.32	2,677.07
2	2	2	2	101.84	169.73	644.43	916.00
8	8	7	7	693.05	1,155.10	4,383.38	6,231.53
3	3	3	3	220.91	368.13	1,357.46	1,946.50
10	10	9	9	744.84	1,241.39	4,862.27	6,848.50
9	9	9	9	604.65	1,007.80	3,933.55	5,546.00
14	14	14	15	1,413.30	2,355.50	9,012.40	12,781.20
3	3	3	3	164.32	273.83	1,062.35	1,500.50
6	7	7	8	537.83	896.41	3,474.76	4,909.00
5	5	5	5	405.81	676.39	2,610.35	3,692.55
5	6	6	5	403.91	673.20	2,602.89	3,680.00
5	5	5	5	365.39	608.95	2,387.66	3,362.00
2	2	2	2	312.78	521.28	2,013.44	2,847.50
11	12	11	11	1,155.43	1,925.71	7,569.65	10,650.79
3	3	3	3	284.95	474.89	1,864.16	2,624.00
6	6	6	6	438.00	730.02	2,849.98	4,018.00
_	_	_	_			***************************************	
10	10	10	1.0	931.63	1,552.68	5,934.67	8,418.98
3	3	3	3	186.21	310.30	1,210.49	1,707.00
1	1	1	1	56.29	93.77	365.94	516.00
8	8	8	8	780.66	1,301.14	5,079.20	7,161.00
11	11	11	11	1,171.76	1,952.95	7,639.94	10,764.65

## CASES RECEIVING AID TO

During the Fiscal Year-July 1,

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Floyd	_		_	_	_		_	_
Fluvanna	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Franklin	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Frederick	7	7	7	7	8	8	9	7
Giles	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Gloucester	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Goochland	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Grayson	4	5	5	5	5	4	4	4
Greene	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Greensville	13	13	13	13	13	13	14	14
Halifax	11	11	11	11	10	10	10	1.1
Hanover	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Henrico	7	8	8	8	9	8	8	7
Henry	3	3	4	6	6	6	6	4
Highland	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
Isle of Wight	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
James City	_	_			—			
King George	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
King William	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
King & Queen	6	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Lancaster	2		_	_	_	1	1	1
Lee	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Loudoun	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Louisa	2	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
Lunenburg	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Madison	10	10	10	9	9	9	9	9
Mathews	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Mecklenburg	13	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
Middlesex	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Montgomery	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4
Nansemond	15	17	18	18	18	18	19	19
Nelson	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
New Kent	1	1	1	1	i	1	1	1
Northampton	14	14	14	15	15	15	14	14
Northumberland	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2

#### THE BLIND AND EXPENDITURES

1966 Through June 30, 1967

Mar.	Mar. Apr.		June	Local	State	Federal	Total
	-	_	_	\$	\$	\$	\$
4	4	4	4	247.33	412.21	1,606.46	2,266.00
4	4	4	4	292.84	488.01	1,899.15	2,680.00
7	8	7	7	670.82	1,118.03	4,365.48	6,154.33
2	2	2	2	181.17	301.95	1,198.70	1,681.82
5	5	5	5	495.42	825.66	3,222.42	4,543.50
2	2	2	2	167.89	279.77	1,097.84	1,545.50
4	4	3	3	386.75	644.56	2,550.69	3,582.00
1	1	1	1	64.98	108.29	422,23	595.50
14	14	14	14	1,047.10	1,745.19	6,863.48	9,655.77
11	11	11	12	889.07	1,481.74	5,762.19	8,133.00
5	5	5	5	530.11	883.56	3,447.83	4,861.50
7	9	9	9	864.46	1,440.75	5,478.24	7,783.45
4	4	4	4	495.88	826,44	3,127.00	4,449.32
2	2	2	2	211.69	352.82	1,385.39	1,949.90
2	2	3	3	263.38	438.96	1,675.41	2,377.75
2			2	127.07	211.74	825.69	1,164.50
6	6	6	6	421.07	701.80	2,739.13	3,862.00
6	6	5	5	612.52	1,020.87	3,989.61	5,623.00
1	1	1	1	24.25	40.45	177.85	242.5
11	11	11	11	1,026.36	1,710.58	6,686.19	9,423.13
5	5	5	5	781.01	1,301.65	5,093.39	7,176.08
3	3	3	3	221.02	368.36	1,432.62	2,022.00
3	3	3	3	257.08	428.51	1,659.91	2,345.50
9	9	9	9	797.20	1,328.67	5,212.63	7,338.50
1	1	1	1	271.46	452.45	1,765.59	2,489.50
12	10	11	11	883.40	1,472.42	5,812.59	8,168.4
2	2	2	2	261.77	436.28	1,692.95	2,391.0
4	4	4	4	409.14	681.94	2,617.02	3,708.1
19	19	19	19	1,702.86	2,838.15	11,082.81	15,623.8
7	7	7	7	637.73	1,062.91	4,087.36	5,788.0
i	í	i	i	57.08	95.10	371.82	524.0
13	14	15	15	1,093.67	1,822.85	7,096.23	10,012.7
2	2	2	2	222.30	370.46	1,448.24	2,041.0

## CASES RECEIVING AID TO

During the Fiscal Year-July 1,

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
	0	0	3	3	3	3	3	3
Nottoway	3	3 9	9	10	10	10	10	10
Orange	9	_	6	6	6	6	6	6
Page	7	7		4	4.	3	3	3
Patrick	4	4	4	_	24	24	24	24
Pittsylvania	24	24	24	24	24	44	24	24
Powhatan	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Prince Edward	9	9	9	9	9	9	9	9
Prince George	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Prince William	_	_		_		—	_	_
Pulaski	3	3	3	3	3	2	2	2
		4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Rappahannock	4	6	6	6	6	6	6	6
Richmond Co	6		11	11	11	11	11	11
Roanoke Co	11	11	5	5	5	5	5	5
Rockbridge	4	5		_	10	10	10	10
Rockingham	11	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Russell	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	4
Scott	12	12	11	10	11	11	11	11
Shenandoah	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Smyth	9	9	8	8	8	8	8	8
Southampton	12	12	12	12	11	11	12	12
Spotsylvania	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Stafford	_	_	_	_	_		_	_
Surry	1	1	1	1	1	1	2	2
Sussex	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Tazewell	25	24	23	25	24	24	24	24
Warren	7	7	7	7	7	7	7	7
*** 1 * 1	01	01	01	20	21	20	20	20
Washington	21	21	21	20	21	20	20	20
Westmoreland	2	2	2	_	_	2 10	10	10
Wise	14	14	12	12	11		6	6
Wythe	6	7	6	6	5	$\frac{6}{2}$	2	2
York	2	2	2	2	2		2	
Total Counties	579	579	575	578	575	570	573	571

#### THE BLIND AND EXPENDITURES

1966 Through June 30, 1967

Mar.	Apr.	May	ay June Local State Federal		Federal	Total	
3	3	3	3	\$ 184.46	\$ 307.48	\$ 1,202.56	\$ 1,694.50
10	10	10	10	1,108.39	1,847.37	7,199.24	10,155.00
6	6	6	6	564.20	940.33	3,659.47	5,164.00
3	3	3	3	429.15	715.26	2,837.09	3,981.50
24	24	23	22	1,551.49	2,585.87	10,098.04	14,235.40
2	2	2	2	186.52	310.87	1,212.61	1,710.00
9	10	9	10	690.87	1,151.52	4,463.61	6,306.00
2	2	2	2	180.93	301.52	1,178.05	1,660.50
	_	_	_	_	_		_
2	2	2	2	144.09	240.13	960.68	1,344.90
4	4	4	4	532.91	888.15	3,453.77	4,874.83
6	6	6	6	582.28	970.46	3,802.22	5,354.96
10	11	11	11	1,391.28	2,318.74	9,058.63	12,768.65
5	5	5	5	406.30	677.21	2,686.43	3,769.94
10	10	10	9	970.67	1,617.83	6,381.88	8,970.38
4	4	4	4	348.19	580.37	2,270.20	3,198.76
11	11	9	9	835.95	1,393.29	5,492.26	7,721.50
5	5	5	5	681.21	1,135.32	4,420.83	6,237.36
8	7	7	7	612.52	1,020.91	4,057.05	5,690.48
12	12	12	11	784.59	1,307.63	5,101.78	7,194.00
8	8	8	8	704.07	1,173.49	4,555.19	6,432.75
_	_				_		_
2	1	1	1	69.48	115.78	450.74	636.00
3	3	3	3	103.95	173.22	676.33	953.50
24	24	25	25	2,406.59	4,011.00	15,644.45	22,062.04
7	7	7	7	661.94	1,103.22	4,322.34	6,087.50
20	20	20	21	1,938.32	3,230.57	12,600.11	17,769.00
2	2	2	2	117.38	195.63	764.49	1,077.50
10	10	10	10	1,059.79	1,766.28	6,923.50	9,749.57
6	7	7	7	771.44	1,285.75	4,971.45	7,028.64
2	2	2	2	250.35	417.24	1,631.41	2,299.00
573	576	571	573	\$52,547.58	\$87,579.25	\$341,357.45	\$481,484.28

## CASES RECEIVING AID TO

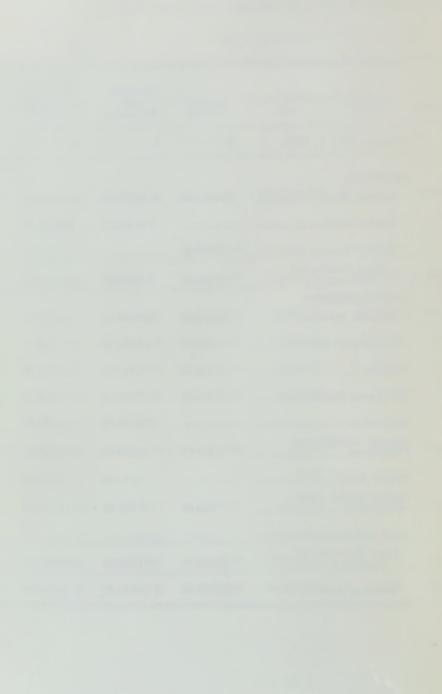
During the Fiscal Year-July 1,

	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.
Alexandria	11	11	11	11	9	10	10	10
Bristol	4	4	7	7	7	7	7	7
Buena Vista	_	_	1	1	1	1	2	2
Charlottesville	22	22	21	21	20	21	21	22
Chesapeake	22	24	25	25	25	26	25	25
Clifton Forge	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Colonial Heights	_	_	_	_	1	1	1	1
Covington	1	1	1	1	2	2	2	2
Danville	17	18	16	16	16	16	16	16
Falls Church	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Franklin	7	7	7	6	6	6	6	6
Fredericksburg	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Galax	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Hampton	11	11	11	11	10	10	10	10
Harrisonburg	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	2
Hopewell	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Lexington	5	5	5	5	5	5	5	5
Lynchburg	30	30	31	31	30	30	28	30
Martinsville	2	2	2	2	2	4	4	4
Newport News	27	27	28	28	29	28	28	28
Norfolk	96	93	92	94	93	95	95	96
Norton	3	3	3	3	3	3	3	3
Petersburg	37	37	34	34	34	34	33	34
Portsmouth	30	30	29	28	27	28	28	28
Radford	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Richmond	168	169	168	170	168	171	171	170
Roanoke	34	32	31	32	33	34	33	33
Staunton	6	6	6	6	7	8	8	8
Suffolk	5	5	6	5	4	5	7	7
Virginia Beach	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	16
Waynesboro	_	_	_	_	-	_	_	_
Williamsburg	_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
Winchester	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total Cities	561	560	557	559	554	567	565	569
Grand Total	1140	1139	1132	1137	1129	1137	1138	1140

#### THE BLIND AND EXPENDITURES

1966 Through June 30, 1967

Mar.	Apr.	May	June	Local	State	Federal	Total
10	11	11	11	\$ 1,375.82	\$ 2,293.05	\$ 9,030.72	\$ 12,699.59
7	5	4	5	550.13	916.87		5,015.1
2	1	1	2	96.55	160.91		875.50
23	23	24	23	1,911.31	3,185.51	12,375.56	17,472.38
26	26	24	27	2,626.08	4,376.79	16,773.04	23,775.9
_	_	_	_		_	_	
1	1	1	1	48.63	81.04	292.83	422.5
2	2	2	2	89.61	149.29	574.10	813.00
16	16	16	16	1,821.22	3,035.41	11,961.15	16,817.78
	_		_				
6 1	6	6	6	662.83	1,104.76	4,335.41	6,103.00
	1	1	1	103.42	172.41	704.01	979.84
10	10	11	12	982.79	1,638.02	6,398.19	9,019.0
2	2	2	2	192.02	320.05	1,262.16	1,774.2
2	2	2	2	247.54	412.59	1,612.87	2,273.0
5	5	5	5	344.68	574.44	2,239.88	3,159.00
30	30	29	29	3,089.28	5,148.82	20,094.80	28,332.9
4	4	4	4	354.71	591.13	2,248.66	3,194.50
28	29	30	31	3,340.31	5,567.20	21,415.31	30,322.85
97	96	95	95	11,280.65	18,801.14	73,458.88	103,540.6
3	3	3	3	278.23	463.64	1,809.63	2,551.50
34	34	34	37	3,972.14	6,620.15	25,678.73	36,271.02
29	28	28	28	2,996.36	4,993.99	19,529.00	27,519.3
-	_	_	_	_	_	_	
170	169	169	170	20,445.91	34,076.51	132,923.78	187,446.20
32	33	33	33	3,750.63	6,251.00	24,258.76	34,260.39
8	7	7	7	845.16	1,408.58	5,466.15	7,719.89
7	7	8	7	662.08	1,103.42	4,204.60	5,970.10
15	15	15	14	1,378.68	2,297.80	8,978.02	12,654.50
_	_	_	_	_	_	_	_
_	_	—	_	_		-	-
1	1	1	1	56.27	93.79	365.94	516.00
571	567	566	574	\$ 63,503.04	\$105,838.31	\$412,158.36	\$ 581,499.7
144	1143	1137	1147	\$116.050.62	\$193,417.56	\$753 515 81	\$1.062.083.00





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